GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:365
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
CRASHES OF MIG - 21 FIGHTERS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL);YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the past decade 221 MIG-21 fighter planes crashed causing immense loss of trained pilots and property;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any comprehensive study to find out the reasons;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken to prevent the crashes alongwith the results;

(f) whether the Government are planning to phase out MIG-21 fleet;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 365 FOR 18.4.2002

Indian Air Force has lost 102 MiG-21 aircraft during the last ten years (i.e. from 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 2002).In these accidents 39 pilots have been killed and an amount of Rs. 311.99 crores have been lost.

A high powered committee to look into the issues of flight safety was set up in February, 1997, under the chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri known as Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA)The Committee made 84 recommendations. Out of these 84 recommendations of COFAA, 45 have been implemented so far.10 were not accepted for implementation. Remaining recommendations are under various stages of implementation.

Human Error (HE), Bird Hit (BH) and Technical Defect (TD) have been identified as the main causes of accidents by various Courts of Inquiry. Remedial measures are instituted on the basis of the recommendations of each Court of Inquiry (COI).Measures are being taken to reduce accidents under all categories by formulation of Accident Prevention Programme, Environmental Cleanliness, Bird Hazard control, conduct of studies on HE and TDs and interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited/Original Equipment Manufacturers. Besides MIG-21 BIS variant aircraft have been planned for upgrade also.

Although MiG-21 is an aging aircraft, it remains fully airworthy consequence to regular maintenance checks and servicing procedure. Hence, MiG-21 will remain in the Air Force for some more time till it is gradually phased out, after its Total Technical Life is fully exploited.